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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1948.

SELBY:
E. M. RIMMINGTON LTD., "EXPRESS" OFFICE
1949

SELBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman: Councillor F. Wray, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor S. B. Mooney.

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.

Chairman: Councillor S. B. Mooney.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor S. Reed.

Medical Officer of Health:

S. KENNAUGH APPLETON, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Sanitary Inspector:

W. LITTLE,
Cert. S.I. Board,
Cert. Meat and Food Inspection R.S.I.

Pupil Assistant:

ERIC K. PHILPOT.

Clerk: JOAN SMITH.

To the Chairman and Members of the Selby Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my second Annual Report on the health of the District and the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1948.

The general health of the town was reasonably good, but there was a moderate increase in the number of notifiable infectious cases. The increase was almost entirely due to measles, which was prevalent in the Autumn, although scarlet fever showed some increase too.

There were no cases of poliomyelitis, and for the second year in succession no case of diphtheria was notified. Ten new cases of tuberculosis were notified in comparison with fifteen in 1947.

It has been difficult to obtain accurate full records of the immunisation state of the child population, but this year I am able to include in the Report figures which show that almost 80% of children under 15 years of age have been immunised. The percentage for children under five years is still too low, and there must be numbers of mothers who have not accepted immunisation as a normal routine procedure in safeguarding their children.

It will be seen from the Vital Statistics that there has been a marked fall in the Birth Rate from 22.4 in 1947, a record year, to 16.6 in 1948; the Rate for the W.R.C. was 18.5 and for the country 17.9. The Death Rate was lower, but is still slightly above the general Rate for England and Wales. The Infantile Mortality Rate fell from 52 to 34, being equal to that for the whole country. There were no Maternal Deaths during the year.

The 5th July, 1948, saw the introduction of the National Health Service Act, 1946, but as the Part III services were administered already by the West Riding County Council, little change occurred in the M. & C.W. routine. Dr. W. Bertram Hill continued as Medical Officer at the Child Welfare Centre. Monthly specialists' clinics for Pædiatrics (diseases of children) and Orthopædics (deformities) were established in Goole to serve the Division, and a weekly session for remedial exercises conducted by a physiotherapeutist is now held in Selby.

Four changes which occurred call for comment, however. The Joint Isolation Hospital, which has served the District continuously and well since November, 1905, passed under the control of the Regional Hospital Board. During this period the Hospital admitted approximately 906 patients from the Urban District, 470 from the Rural District, and a considerable number from Riccall R.D., and on occasion cases from Goole Borough and Tadcaster R.D

The District Nursing Association disbanded after having provided an adequate home nursing service for many years on a voluntary basis. The Home Nursing Service continues under the adminstration of the County Council..

The Ambulance Service for the town had been provided most efficiently by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, supported by voluntary subscription. Since the 5th July, the Brigade has operated the Service as agents of the County Council.

It is fitting now that these three services have passed from the control of the Council and the voluntary organisations of the township, that an appreciation of the successful efforts of all workers, past and present, should be recorded.

The fourth change was the inauguration of a Home Help Service to provide domestic assistance to mothers during the lying-in period and for cases of chronic sickness recommended by the doctors of the town.

Reference to the Sanitary Inspector's Report will show the great amount of work carried out by the Health Department. Although the total number of visits is slightly lower than in 1947, there has been a very creditable increase in the number of sanitary improvements effected during 1948.

The number of housing applicants interviewed was twice as many as in 1947, reaching a total of 1,858. This is unsatisfying and often disagreeable work, particularly as there is a persistent impression in the town that Mr. Little has the final say in the allocation of Council houses. The answer to the problem still remains authority to build more houses, and until sufficient houses are provided, the Health Department has to carry this burden to the detriment of its normal sphere of work.

As reported elsewhere in the Report, one aged and infirm person was dealt with under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

Finally, I would express my thanks to the Members and Officers of the Council for their co-operation and consideration, and to the Voluntary Workers at the Clinic for valuable assistance.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

S. KENNAUGH APPLETON,

Medical Officer of Health

September, 1949.

GENERAL STATISTICS, 1948.

Area of Urban District	3,883 acres
Population (mid 1948)	10,460
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,960
Rateable Value	£58,389 (Mar. 1949)
Product of Penny Rate	£221/1/6 (Mar. 1949)

VITAL STATISTICS.

	SELBY U.D.	Aggregate West Riding U.D.s	West Riding Admin. County	England and Wales (Provisional)
BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 population)	16.6	18.3	18.5	17.9
DEATH RATES (per 1,000 population)				
All causes	11.9	11.8	11.3	10.8
Principal Zymotic Diseases	0.10	0.12	0.12	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis	0.19	0.37	0.37	0.44
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0.10	0.07	0.07	0.07
Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis)	1.05	1.34	1.29	—
Cancer	2.10	1.83	1.74	1.86
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	3.68	3.98	3.73	—
INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	34	38	39	34
INFANT DIARRHŒA (Deaths under 2 years of age per 1,000 live births)	5.75	4.17	4.38	3.3
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Deaths of mothers in child-birth per 1,000 total births)				
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0.09	0.10	0.24
Other causes	0	1.02	1.05	0.78
Total	0	1.11	1.15	1.02

COMPARATIVE BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

BIRTH RATE.

Average for	1930-1934	.... 16.4	1946 .... 21.3
,, ,,	1935-1939	.... 15.6	1947 .... 22.4
,, ,, (War years)	1940-1945	.... 16.8	1948 .... 16.6

TOTAL DEATH RATE.

Average for	1930-1934	.... 11.2	1946 .... 10.6
,, ,,	1935-1939	.... 12.4	1947 .... 12.6
,, ,, (War years)	1940-1945	.... 13.1	1948 .... 11.9

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATE.

Average for	1930-1934	.... 0.59	1946 .... 0.29
,, ,,	1935-1939	.... 0.59	1947 .... 0.49
,, ,, (War years)	1940-1945	.... 0.38	1948 .... 0.19

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

Average for	1930-1934	.... 0.21	1946 .... 0.20
,, ,,	1935-1939	.... 0.11	1947 .... 0.10
,, ,, (War years)	1940-1945	.... 0.05	1948 .... 0.10

RESPIRATORY DEATH RATE.

Average for	1930-1934	.... 1.30	1946 .... 1.96
,, ,,	1935-1939	.... 1.42	1947 .... 1.46
,, ,, (War years)	1940-1945	.... 2.34	1948 .... 1.05

CANCER DEATH RATE.

Average for	1930-1934	.... 1.80	1946 .... 1.96
,, ,,	1935-1939	.... 2.13	1947 .... 1.66
,, ,, (War years)	1940-1945	.... 1.68	1948 .... 2.10

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.
(principal notifiable diseases)

Average for	1930-1934	.... 0.19	1946 .... 0.00
,, ,,	1935-1939	.... 0.27	1947 .... 0.10
,, ,, (War years)	1940-1945	.... 0.07	1948 .... 0.10

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.
(per 1,000 live births)

Average for	1930-1934	 56	1946 41
,, ,,	1935-1939	 46	1947 52
,, ,, (War years)	1940-1945	 63	1948 34

BIRTHS, 1948.

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births.—Legitimate	89	78	167
Illegitimate	5	2	7
Total	94	80	174
Stillbirths	3	1	4

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1948.

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	1	1	2
Tuberculosis (Other forms)	0	1	1
Cancer	14	8	22
Diabetes	0	3	3
Intracranial vascular lesions	7	9	16
Heart Diseases	25	11	36
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	1	2
Bronchitis	3	3	6
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Other respiratory diseases	2	0	2
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	0	1	1
Ulcer of stomach	1	1	2
Other digestive diseases	1	1	2
Nephritis	1	0	1
Premature birth	2	2	4
Road traffic accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	1	1	2
All other causes	8	9	17
Total	70	54	124

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases in 1948.

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	2	3	5
Non-Pulmonary	3	2	5
Total	5	5	10

Total cases on Register.

Pulmonary	16	8	24
Non-Pulmonary	6	10	16
Total	22	18	40

SELBY URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1948.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified								Cases Removed to Hospital	Deaths
	At all Ages.	According to Age								
		Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	Over 65		
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Cholera (C) Plague (P)	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	5	...	...	...	1	...	2	2	...	...
Scarlet Fever	18	...	2	12	1	3	...	...	16	...
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Relapsing Fever (R) Continued Fever (C)	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	..	...	..	...	1	..	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	10	...	1	2	2	5	...	...	...	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
Measles	152	5	87	59	...	1	..	...	...	...
Primary Pneumonia	3	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	3
Influenzal Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	9	1	3	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Totals	202	6	97	79	4	11	3	2	18	6

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Immunised during 1948:	Children under 5 years	170
	Children over 5 years	10
		180
	Refresher Dose	270
	Total	450

Total number of Children under 15 years of age who have been immunised up to 31st December, 1948:—

Age—Years	0—1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10-15	Total
Number	10	79	132	92	93	668	688	1762
Percentage	46.72%					97.38%		77.93%

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.
Section 47.

On the 13th December, an Order of the Court was obtained under Section 47 of the Act for the removal of a male found to be aged, infirm and living in insanitary conditions, and unable to devote to himself, and not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

The Order was for a period of three months, and the man was removed to Brook Lodge Institute, Selby. On the 24th December he was removed to St. John's Hospital, Goole, where he has been retained on renewal of the Order at three monthly intervals.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

(Extract from separate report to the Director of Statistics of the Ministry of Labour on Form 572).

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Owners Prosecuted
Factories with Mechanical Power	50	117	3	0
„ without Mechanical Power	0	0	0	0
Workplaces	0	0	0	0

Defects.

Particulars	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	Prosecutions instituted
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	0	0
Inadequate Ventilation	1	1	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences unsuitable or defective	5	5	1	0
	7	7	1	0

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Inspection Work, 1948.

Inspections (including re-inspection of dwellinghouses)	1482
Visits in connection with Letting of Houses	223
Visits in connection with Verminous Premises	7
Visits in connection with Infectious Disease	73
Factories inspected	52
Inspection of Milkshops and Dairies	15
Inspection of Cowsheds	16
Street work in connection with Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders	21
Inspection of Food	249
Premises used for the preparation and sale of food	215
Pigstyes and premises used for keeping of animals	6
Tents, vans and sheds	25
Water Samples taken	4
Water Supply, Inspection	13
Rats and Mice Destruction Acts	333
Drains inspected	36
Cinemas, Visits	32
Other visits, unclassified, interviews, no access, miscellaneous	317
Total Number of Visits	3119
Housing Applicants interviewed	1858

During the year, 150 notices were served under the Public Health and Housing Acts, of which number 125 were complied with.

Details of Sanitary Improvements effected as a result of Inspections made and Notices issued under Public Health and Housing Acts.

Dwellinghouses (Number affected)	261
Roofs repaired and made weatherproof	149
Rainwater gutters repaired or renewed	78
Rainwater downspouts repaired or renewed	44
External walls repaired	50
Defective chimney stacks repaired	18
Fireranges and firegrates repaired or renewed	51
Walls plaster repaired	233
Ceiling plaster repaired	16
Floors repaired	72
Defective skirting boards repaired	12

Window frames repaired	32
Window fasteners renewed	9
Window cords renewed	71
Doors repaired or renewed	27
Door fasteners renewed	7
Stairs repaired or renewed	3
Inadequate ventilation improved	20
Ventilated food stores provided	7
Deficient water supply remedied	23
Sinks provided	24
Worn and defective sinks renewed	5
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	9
Defective washing boilers renewed	3
Paving of yards repaired	7
Privately owned houses disinfested	12

Water Closets.

Roofs repaired	3
Basins renewed	8
Connections repaired	6
Flushing apparatus repaired	18
Doors repaired or renewed	4
Seats repaired or renewed	9

Drainage.

Defective drains repaired	25
Inspection chambers provided	3
Choked drains cleansed	183

Storage of Refuse.

Accumulations of refuse removed	9
Defective dustbins renewed	250

Keeping of Animals.

Conditions remedied where pigs and pigstyes were improperly kept	2

Water Supply.

All houses in the District, except two, have a piped water supply. Four samples were tested bacteriologically during the year and all were satisfactory.

Cinemas.

The sanitary conveniences were regularly inspected, and where necessary, action was taken to remedy all defects found.

Inspection of Food.

Food found to be unfit: 17 cwts 1 qr. 14 lbs., 250 eggs.